

**What is Claimed:**

1        1. An apparatus for holding a pastry item, which comprises:  
2                  a container member for at least partially containing a pastry item, said  
3                  container member dimensioned and configured for insertion into a vessel containing a liquid  
4                  therein, said container member including at least one support surface and having at least one  
5                  aperture extending through said at least one support surface, whereupon at least partial  
6                  insertion of said container member within the vessel, the liquid passes through said at least  
7                  one aperture to contact the pastry item contained therein.

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9        2. The apparatus according to claim 1 including a handle member depending  
10          from said container member, said handle member dimensioned for grasping and engaging by  
11          the user to facilitate insertion and manipulation of said container member within the vessel.

1        3. The apparatus according to claim 1 wherein said container member includes  
2          first and second opposed support surfaces, said support surfaces arranged to support the  
3          pastry item therebetween.

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1        4. The apparatus according to claim 3 wherein said first support surface is  
2          adapted for movement relative to said second support surface between a first open position to  
3          facilitate positioning of the pastry item at least partially between said support surfaces and a  
4          second approximated position where the pastry item is supported between said support  
5          surfaces.

1           5.     The apparatus according to claim 4 including a handle member depending  
2     from said container member and being dimensioned for grasping engagement by user to  
3     facilitate insertion and manipulation of the pastry item.

1           6.     The apparatus according to claim 5 wherein said handle member includes a  
2     movable member operatively connected to said first support element, said movable member  
3     movable to cause movement of said first support element between first and second positions.

1           7.     The apparatus according to claim 6 wherein said container member includes an  
2     enclosure member, said enclosure member defining a cavity for reception of the pastry item.

1           8.     The apparatus according to claim 6 wherein said enclosure member is  
2     dimensioned to accommodate a cookie.

1           9.     A method for dunking a pastry item within a vessel containing a fluid therein,  
2     comprising the steps of:

3                 providing a pastry holder including opposed support elements arranged to  
4     support a pastry therebetween, at least one said support elements including an aperture  
5     therein;

6                 positioning a pastry item between said opposed support elements whereby the  
7     pastry item is contained within said pastry holder; and

8                   inserting said pastry holder within the vessel to at least partially submerge the  
9       pastry item in the fluid whereby the fluid passes through said aperture to contact the pastry  
10      item.

1                  10.     The apparatus according to claim 9 wherein said pastry item is a cookie and  
2       wherein the step of inserting includes submerging at least a portion of the cookie in the fluid  
3       of the vessel.